



## LOUISIANA SENATE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Senator Allain Applauds Governor and DOTD for Preserving Oaks on LA 182**

Senator Bret Allain, District 21, released the following statement regarding the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development plan to keep oak trees in place along a scenic and historic portion of LA 182 in St. Mary Parish.

"Yesterday afternoon, DOTD Secretary Sherri Lebas informed us of the decision to keep these majestic live oaks in place as part of the department's LA 182 preservation project. I want to thank Governor Jindal for his leadership in urging that these live oaks remain along the highway and for recognizing the symbolism these trees have for so many of our local residents," Senator Allain said.

He added, "I understand and respect that safety will and should always be our number one priority, especially when it comes to Louisiana's roadways. DOTD is confident that the trimming of low-hanging branches, the addition of safety enhancements such as rumble striping and pavement markings, and more visible signage will greatly improve the safety of this five mile stretch of highway slated to be resurfaced with capital outlay funds designated for District 21."

Senator Allain concluded, "A big thank you also goes out to Representative Sam Jones and to the many concerned residents who voiced their support for the solution announced yesterday. All deserve credit for their part in reaching this compromise with the state, and it is a great example of state government working with our local communities to reach a common ground. This resolution balances the safety along LA 182 with the importance of preserving the cultural heritage these trees represent."

*\*\*\*Previously, thirteen live oaks were slated to be removed because of their proximity to LA 182 as part of a resurfacing and improvement project for a critical section of roadway used by local residents and industry in the Jeanerette area.*

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